

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/664,247

Examiner

S. B. McCormick-Ewoldt

Applicant(s)

ELSNER, WILHELM

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to May 2, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The communication of May 2, 2006 year is hereby acknowledged.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) has been withdrawn in view of Applicant's response dated May 2, 2006.

Applicant admits that the plant material was provided to a licensed propagator in Europe at the end of 2000 for the sole purpose of establishing mother plants from which commercial 'Pendec' plants were generated and sold as early as the beginning of 2001, less than 1 year before the filing date of the present application. The commercial sale of 'Pendec' did not occur in the United States until the beginning of 2001.

In response to the above statement, Applicant is reminded that "provided to a licensed propagator in Europe" does constitute a first sale. Additionally, this sale does not appear to be an obscure or isolated occurrence. Selling to a wholesaler is not obscure or isolated because the purpose of the wholesaler was to increase plants for further commercial production. There is nothing that indicates that the plant would not have been offered to other interested parties. The end result was the plant was in the public domain as soon as it was offered to the wholesaler. Absent evidence of the relationship between the wholesaler and the licensed propagator, it is assumed this constituted the first offering to the "public." It is immaterial whether the public was the wholesaler, retailer, or other parties.

Applicant states "plant material was provided to a licensed propagator in Europe at the end of 2000....". However, the 2000 date, when it was first made publicly available, is after the date of filing and therefore does not enable the publication. As such it does not constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The information regarding the cultivar Pendec was described in the Plant Breeder's Right application number, 970950, and published on December 15, 1999. The printed publication was

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accessible to the public more than one year prior to the filing date of this instant application. A publication relied upon as prior art under 35 USC 102(b) must be enabling. The text of the relied upon publications standing alone would not enable one skilled in the art to practice the claimed invention.

When the claim is drawn to a plant, the reference, combined with knowledge in the prior art, must enable one of ordinary skill in the art to obtain or reproduce the plant. See *In re LeGrice*, 301 F.2d 929, 133 USPQ 365 (CCPA 1962). If one skilled in the art could obtain and reproduce the plant from a publicly available source, then a publication describing the plant would have an enabling disclosure.

In the response dated May 2, 2006, Applicant states the claimed plant has not been sold or available to the public anywhere in the world prior to the filing in the United States. The printed publication cannot be enabling more than one year prior to filing because the disclosed cultivar was not propagated or obtained from publicly available materials.

The specification provides as complete a botanical description as is reasonably possible of the claimed plant. The completeness of the description is sufficient to distinguish this new plant from the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Susan B. McCormick-Ewoldt whose telephone number is (571) 272-0981. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiners' supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg, can be reached at (571) 272-0975. The official fax number for the group is (571) 273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

sbme



ANNE MARIE GRUNBERG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER